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Notes on Philippine birds, 8. A collection from Mindoro revisited

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Blasius (1897a, b) published only abbreviated results of the collecting carried out in Mindoro by Dr Platen and his wife from April to November 1890, and did so in a relatively obscure journal, perhaps because by that time the results of 3 later collections had been published and the Platens had lost the credit for 42 forms that they had in fact been the first to collect in Mindoro (see Appendix 1). Hartlaub (1899) made a reference to the reports of Blasius but subsequently virtually no author dealing with the Philippines in general or Mindoro in particular has referred to them. In consequence, although Blasius

listed 46 forms as new to Mindoro – of which 6, in fact, are to be found in the 42 claimed by other authors – the credit for most of the remaining discoveries by the Platens was claimed by later authors (see Appendix 2).

McGregor (1909) listed a few species for Mindoro, sometimes with a query, giving Platen as the collector. The queries and the incompleteness of such records make it clear that McGregor had not seen either Blasius's papers or the supporting specimens. Blasius (1888a, b, c, 1890a, b, c, 1891) had earlier published more extensive reports of collections, now mainly in the Staatliches Naturhistorisches Museum Braunschweig (SNMB), made by the Platens in the Sulus, Palawan and Mindanao and had described a number of new species. Later, Blasius (1897b) reported that the Platens had brought back 728 skins of 141 forms from Mindoro.

In July 1962, whilst working on the collections at SNMB, we discovered that most of the forms collected by the Platens in Mindoro were represented, the SNMB now holding 222 specimens of 124 forms, all from the Platens, but some also from the collection of Amtmann Nehrkorn, a leading citizen of Braunschweig of the time, who seems to have provided the Platens with funds for their work.

APPENDIX 1

Species collected in Mindoro by Dr & Mrs Platen, 1890, excluding those taken by the Steere Expedition 1888 or by Schmacker 1888-9, as well as those in Appendix 2, to show earlier publications of later collections.

Specific name used by duPont (1971)	Bourns & Worcester (1894)	Everett (Hartert 1895)	Specific name used by duPont (1971)	Bourns & Worcester (1894)	Everett (Hartert 1895)
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	X		<i>Ducula bicolor</i>	X	
<i>Butorides striatus</i>	X		<i>Macropygia</i>		
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	X		<i>phasianella</i>	X	
<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	X		<i>Geopelia striata</i>		X
<i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>	X		<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	X	
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		X	<i>Centropus steerii</i> *	X	
<i>Haliastur indus</i>	X		<i>Ninox philippensis</i> *	X	
<i>Haliaeetus</i>			<i>Eurostopodus</i>		
<i>leucogaster</i>	X		<i>macrotis</i>	X	
<i>Ichthyophaga</i>			<i>Dendrocopos</i>		
<i>ichthyaetus</i>	X		<i>maculatus</i>		X
<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>		X	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X	
<i>Butastur indicus</i>		X	<i>Pericrocotus</i>		
<i>Microhierax</i>			<i>divaricatus</i>		X
<i>erythrogonys</i>	X		<i>Parus elegans</i>	X	
<i>Falco severus</i>		X	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	X	
<i>Rallus torquatus</i>	X		<i>Phylloscopus</i>		
<i>Rallina</i>			<i>borealis</i>	X	
<i>eurizonoides</i> *	X		<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	X	
<i>Poliolimnas</i>			<i>Muscicapa</i>		
<i>cinereus</i>	X		<i>griseisticta</i>	X	
<i>Amauornis</i>			<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	X	
<i>phoenicurus</i>	X		<i>Aethopyga shellei</i>	X	
<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	X		<i>Dicaeum</i>		
<i>Treron pompadora</i>		X	<i>aeruginosum</i> *		X
<i>Ptilinopus</i>			<i>Dicaeum</i>		
<i>occipitalis</i>	X		<i>bicolor</i>		X

Notes: * = see text

Whitehead (Ogilvie Grant 1896) also recorded *Ducula poliocephala*, *Cacomantis merulinus** and *Ninox scutulata**.

APPENDIX 2

List of species claimed as new to Mindoro by Blasius (1897b) based on the collections of Dr & Mrs Platen 1890, and showing authors subsequently publishing (first) records for Mindoro.

Specific name used by duPont (1971)	Name used by Blasius (1897b)	Reference to recent record
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<i>Herodias nigripes</i>	McGregor 1906
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	<i>Nycticorax caledonica</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Anas crecca</i>	<i>Querquedula crecca</i>	
<i>Anas luzonica</i>	<i>Anas luzonica</i>	McGregor 1904
<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	
<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	<i>Tachyspiza soloensis</i>	Ripley & Rabor 1958
<i>Spizaetus philippensis</i>	<i>Spizaetus philippensis</i>	McGregor 1906
<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>	<i>Megapodius dillwyni</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	<i>Excalfactoria chinensis</i>	McGregor 1904
<i>Rallus striatus</i>	<i>Hypotaenidia striata</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Amaurornis olivacea</i>	<i>Amaurornis olivacea</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	<i>Rhynchaea capensis</i>	
<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	<i>Charadrius fulvus</i>	McGregor 1904
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	<i>Aegialitis dubia</i>	Worcester & Bourns 1898
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	<i>Aegialitis geoffroyi</i>	
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	<i>Numenius variegatus</i>	Temme 1976
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	<i>Numenius cyanopus</i>	
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<i>Totanus calidris</i>	McGregor 1906
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	<i>Rhyacophilus glareola</i>	Ripley & Rabor 1958
<i>Tringa incanous</i>	<i>Totanus incanous</i>	Temme 1976
<i>Gallinago megala</i>	<i>Gallinago megala</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	
<i>Treron vernans</i>	<i>Osmotreron vernans</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Ptilinopus leclancheri</i>	<i>Leucotreron leclancheri</i>	McGregor 1903
<i>Columba vitiensis</i>	<i>Janthoenas griseigularis</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Cuculus sparverioides</i>	<i>Hieracocyx strenuus</i>	Meyer de Schauensee 1957
<i>Cuculus fugax</i>	<i>Hieracocyx pectoralis</i>	McGregor 1904
<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	<i>Cuculus canorides</i>	Peters 1939
<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	<i>Cacomantis sepulchralis</i>	Ripley & Rabor 1958
<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	McGregor 1904
<i>Tyto capensis</i>	<i>Scelostrix candida</i>	Temme 1973
<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	<i>Caprimulgus manillensis</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Ceyx melanurus</i>	<i>Ceyx melanura</i>	(Error, see text)
<i>Halcyon coromanda</i>	<i>Callialcyon coromanda</i>	McGregor 1904
<i>Coracina morio</i>	<i>Volvocivora mindanensis</i>	McGregor 1905
<i>Ficedula narcissina</i>	<i>Xanthopygia narcissina</i>	
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	<i>Budytes viridis</i>	Worcester & Bourns 1898
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	<i>Anthus striolatus</i>	(Error, see text)
<i>Anthus gustavi</i>	<i>Anthus gustavi</i>	McGregor 1904
<i>Lonchura leucogastra</i>	<i>Oxyercia everetti</i>	McGregor 1906

Note: The above table excludes 6 species that Blasius (1897b) included in his list of species new to Mindoro but which had in fact been published earlier and are included in Appendix 1. He called them: *Teraspiza virgata*, *Osmotreron axillaris*, *Geopelia striata*, *Ninox macroptera*, *Lyncornis mindanensis* and *Jyngipicus maculatus*.

In view of the obscurity of the papers by Blasius (1897a, b) and:

- the fact that 3 species remain listed for Mindoro solely on the basis of the listing by McGregor (1909) of Platen as a collector;
- the fact that 4 other species that Blasius (1897b) listed as new to Mindoro have not been collected since;
- and finally because 2 of the species that Blasius listed were misidentified and require correction (a process which adds one species to the Mindoro list in place of another);

it was felt useful to provide notes on these 9 species.

In a second section, covering 5 species, mention is made of a number of manuscript scientific names, found in the SNMB register in what appears to be the handwriting of Blasius, who would presumably have proposed these names had he published his findings earlier. Finally comments are given on 7 other species where notes on identifications or the status of records are needed. In a few cases mention is made of other unpublished Mindoro records of these same species which have been brought to our attention.

Notes on selected species

Confirmations or corrections of Mindoro records

Anas crecca

The Platens's record was listed by McGregor (1909) with a query. SNMB contains an eclipse male No 16860, taken 3 November 1890.

Circus melanoleucos

Four correctly identified specimens support the record given by Blasius (1897b). No recent published records have been traced but Mrs LeCroy has kindly drawn our attention to another Mindoro specimen, in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), collected on 30 July 1963 at Guimbato, Bongabong, Mindoro, a somewhat early date for this autumn migrant.

Rostratula benghalensis

Two specimens in SNMB (a male – N.3477 – taken on 21 October 1890, and a female – N.3478 – taken on 15 November 1890) substantiate the listing by Blasius (1897b). Mrs LeCroy has drawn our attention to another specimen (AMNH No 784096) taken at Lake Naujan on 4 August 1963 by T. Oane and J. Ramos.

Charadrius leschenaultii

Of all the species claimed as new to Mindoro by Blasius (1897b) this one cannot now be supported by skins in SNMB; Blasius's (1897a) critical notes, however, seem to preclude an error, and although not since recorded from Mindoro, the record of this species is best accepted.

Numenius madagascariensis

Listed for Mindoro by McGregor & Worcester (1906) but not by McGregor (1909). A SNMB specimen (N.3470) collected on 13 November 1890 substantiates the listing by Blasius (1897b).

Esacus magnirostris

Listed by Blasius (1897b) and with a query by McGregor (1909), the record is supported by a female in SNMB (N.3469) taken on 7 October 1890.

Ceyx erithacus rufidorsum

The SNMB register makes clear that Blasius (1897b) based his listing of *Ceyx melanura* at least partially on specimen Nos 16734, 16735 and 16736 for they are so named therein. We have now identified these 3 skins, plus a fourth (N.3495, from the Nehr Korn Collection), as *C.e. rufidorsum* by comparison with others of this species in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) (BMNH). This species was collected in Mindoro by Schmacker as reported by Hartert (1891). *Ceyx melanurus* should not, therefore, be included in the Mindoro list.

Alauda gulgula

Specimen No 16807 in the SNMB, collected on 8 September 1890, is new to Mindoro. The original label carries the name *Anthus striolatus* crossed out, and the skin has, in fact, been correctly named in the register. There can be little doubt, however, that this specimen was the basis for Blasius's (1897b) record of *A. striolatus*, a name which is presumed to have been used as a synonym for *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, a species that had in fact been taken earlier in Mindoro by the Steere Expedition.

Ficedula narcissina

Listed by McGregor & Worcester (1906) but omitted by McGregor (1909). Blasius's (1897b) record is substantiated by SNMB No 16770 taken on 31 October 1890. There appear to be no other records from Mindoro.

*Manuscript names of Blasius**Gallicolumba (luzonica) platenae*

Given the manuscript name *Phlogoenas platenae* by Blasius, and brought into the literature by Hartert (1891), this species was formally described by Salvadori (1893). Three specimens (Nos 16828, 16829 and 16830) are mentioned in the SNMB register as Types – probably in the handwriting of Blasius. A fourth specimen in SNMB (N.3493 from the Nehr Korn Collection) may also have type status.

Centropus steerii

The SNMB register suggests that Blasius gave this species the manuscript name *Pyrrocentor nehrkorni* and that he later synonymised this with *Centropus steerii* when the latter name was published.

Ninox philippensis

Blasius provided the manuscript name *Ninox plateni*, which was published by Hartlaub (1899) although Ogilvie Grant (1896) had earlier described the same form, collected by Whitehead later than by the Platens, as *Ninox mindorensis*. SNMB holds the type of *Ninox plateni* (No 16719, a male taken 19 May 1890) and a pencilled entry in the register suggests that Blasius synonymised this with *Ninox spilonotus* Bourns & Worcester of Cebu.

Parus elegans

For this species too Blasius provided a manuscript name in the SNMB register – *Parus elegans macrorhynchus*.

Dicaeum aeruginosum

For this species Blasius provided the manuscript name *Piprisoma striata* in the register, later adding “= *aeruginosum* Bourns & Worcester”.

*Additional comments**Pernis ptilorhynchus*

A “male”, No N.3010 from the Nehr Korn collection, in SNMB is without a collection date, but is from Mindoro. It has been compared with other specimens of this species and with specimens of *P. celebensis steerii*, and appears to be a juvenile female *P. ptilorhynchus orientalis*. Hartert (1891) mentions an earlier Mindoro record from Mt Halcon by Schmacker. Stresemann (1940) did not list this species and Schmacker's skin is apparently not now in Frankfurt, so that it may never be known which species Schmacker took.

Accipiter soloensis

A specimen (SNMB No 16709) was collected by the Platens on 20 September 1890. Subsequently a record was published by Ripley & Rabor (1958), but was not claimed as the first record for Mindoro. Delacour & Mayr (1946) wrote "encountered chiefly on Luzon and Mindoro" but the literature at that time included several records for Mindanao and none for Mindoro. In fact a bird taken by Everett in Mindoro on 2 December 1894 (now AMNH No 532718) and listed by Hartert (1895) as *Accipiter manillensis* (a synonym of *A. virgatus*) has recently been reidentified as *A. soloensis* and this may have already been known to Ripley & Rabor (1958).

Rallina eurizonoides

Blasius registered specimen No 16845 in SNMB as "*Rallina tricolor*" but did not list it as a novelty for Mindoro. It proves to be *R. eurizonoides*, which has a confused history as regards Mindoro: it was listed by Bourns & Worcester (1894) but omitted by Worcester & Bourns (1898), only to be listed again by McGregor & Worcester (1906) and by McGregor (1909) based on collections made by himself and Porter.

Cacomantis spp.

Peters (1939) pointed out the sympatry in Basilan of *C. merulinus* and *C. variolosus*. Rand (1951) provided further support for this and began reviewing the older records to determine the extent of occurrence of each species; but the work still remains to be completed. Tentative identifications are given below for specimens said to have been taken by Platen in Mindoro.

Cacomantis merulinus

SNMB No 16740, a male collected 19 October 1890, and SNMB No 16743, a female collected 19 September 1890, are definitely this species.

Cacomantis variolosus

Two SNMB specimens support the listing of this species by Blasius (1897b). No 16741, an immature male of *C.v. sepulchralis*, was taken on 2 June 1890. The other (No 16742), thought to have been a female, is said to have been collected at Calapan, Mindoro on 23 October 1890, and is a good match for a specimen of *C.v. affinis* taken on 17 April in the southern winter in Halmahera (BMNH, BM 1934.10.21.65) and for other birds from Batjan in the Moluccas. Although this migrant could have reached Mindoro, it is known that the Platens collected in Batjan in 1892-94 and a confusion in subsequent labelling cannot be excluded.

Tyto capensis

Although listed from Mindoro by McGregor & Worcester (1906) the record was dropped by McGregor (1909). Three specimens in SNMB substantiate the listing by Blasius (1897b). Another early unpublished specimen from Mindoro is in the BMNH (BM 1912.9.8.24), collected by Mounsey on 26 February 1910. See also Appendix 2.

Ninox scutulata

Blasius (1897b) recorded this species from Mindoro under the name *Ninox macroptera* Blasius, described from the Sangihe Islands by himself (1888d) in a newspaper, copies of which are hard to locate, as discussed by Vaurie (1960). Vaurie can now be shown to have been right in supposing that the name was based on migrants of the Japanese population. The types of *Macroptera* (Nos 13901, 13902, 13903 and 13904 in the SNMB) have been compared with

specimens in BMNH. The name *japonica* Temminck & Schlegel 1847 applies to *macroptera*, as it has been shown by Dickinson (1975) that *scutulata* Raffles applies only to Malayan residents and not to migrants. It is not certain that the Mindoro specimen (SNMB No 16722) is *japonica*, its collection date – 25 June 1890 – suggests the resident race *randi*, but the BMNH collection contains inadequate material for a conclusion to be reached.

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Notes on the Collared Petrel *Pterodroma (leucoptera) brevipes*

by Dick Watling

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The Collared Petrel *Pterodroma (leucoptera) brevipes* has been very little studied. Limited mensural data are available (Bourne 1983, Clunie 1976, Loomis 1918, Murphy 1929). Bourne (1981) summarises some of the museum specimens, whilst a summary of all fragmentary records in the literature, including some new records, is to be published (Jenkins in prep.). Information on the biology of the Collared Petrel is needed to help elucidate its taxonomic position within the complex *P. leucoptera* group.

Recent fieldwork on Gau I., Fiji (18°00'S, 179°16'E – see Watling 1985) has enabled additional information to be collected. The voice has been taped and a large live sample examined to record plumage details of this 'polymorphic' species. Twenty-one Collared Petrels were collected and have been deposited as whole specimens at the Fiji Museum. The only other major collections are skins at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) – 20 adults and young taken at the nest on Kadavu by the Whitney South Sea Expedition; 6 adults with 2 chicks in the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology (CUMZ), taken from central Vitilevu; 8 specimens at the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH), 4 from Aneityum, Vanuatu and 4 from Vitilevu. Other minor collections are held at the Australian Museum, 3 specimens from Vitilevu and one unlabelled (W. Boles); 2 specimens at the Liverpool Museum, one from Vitilevu and one from Vanuabalavu ('Lomaloma'), Fiji; 4 specimens at Leiden and one at Paris (W. R. P. Bourne).

Three of Fiji's pioneering ethnographer-zoologists wrote at varying lengths about the Collared Petrel in Fiji in the 1860–70's: Baron Anatole von Hügel (Roth & Hooper in press), Theodore Kleinschmidt (1879) and Eduard Graeffe (1868). It is clear from their accounts that the Collared Petrel was well known and extensively exploited in certain areas. That petrels were once well known, in many communities, is confirmed by the presence of traditional songs/poems/lullabies which either mention or whose subject is exclusively the Rikoriko, Lagio or Kacau, 3 Fijian names for petrels (Watling in prep.). Whilst these poems etc. are still orally perpetuated in some communities, there appears to be no knowledge of nesting petrels except in Kadavu, where they are